

the tank interior wherein a predetermined minimum liquid level is maintained above [and relative to] the tank bottom end, and the gas inlet having a diffuser in fluid communication therewith and located within the tank interior at a level generally below the predetermined minimum liquid level so that gas entering the tank interior is finely mixed with the total volume of liquid, and the liquid outlet having a tube portion extending there from within the tank interior and terminating closely adjacent the tank bottom end, and including a baffle plate positioned within the tank interior above the tank bottom end and below the minimum liquid level and the plate including a first hole for the liquid outlet tube portion to extend there through and the baffle plate [have] having a plurality of secondary holes.

Please enter new claims 2-6, as follows:

--2. The device as defined in claim 1, and where the first liquid is water and the second liquid is a beverage syrup.--

--3. A carbonator, comprising:

a tank having a top end a bottom end and a sidewall extending there between defining a tank interior,

the tank having a water inlet connected to a source of water and a syrup inlet connected to a source of syrup, and having a gas inlet connected to a source of pressurized carbon dioxide gas, and a beverage outlet,

a level sensor located in the tank interior, the level sensor connected to a control, the control for maintaining a predetermined combined volume of syrup and water within the tank interior wherein a predetermined minimum liquid level is maintained above the tank bottom end,

a tube portion in the tank interior and fluidly connected to the beverage outlet and extending there from in the tank interior and terminating closely adjacent the tank bottom end.--